GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1387
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
MEETING ON CLIMATE CHANGE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the first meeting of the National Council on Climate change was held recently;

(b) If so, the details of the discussions held and the decisions taken therein to contain the impact of climate change;

(c) Whether the Government proposes to undertake a major afforestation programme called as Green India;

(d) If so, the details of the programme worked out;

(e) The area of degraded forestland in hectares likely to be converted into green areas under this programme, State-wise; and

(f) The amount likely to be spent thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) The Prime Minister chaired the first meeting of the National Council on Climate Change on 13.7.2007. Some of the important decisions taken in the meeting interalia, are :

(i) Clean development strategies have to be incorporated into sectoral plans as an intrinsic part of the XI Plan strategy by the Planning Commission.
(ii) A national document compiling action taken by India for addressing the challenge of climate change, and action that it proposes to take, to be prepared as India's National Report on Climate Change.
(iii) To formulate a long term strategy to deal with glacial melting of the Himalayas.
(iv) A comprehensive action plan to be prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture on the agricultural agenda for climate change, and to be forwarded to the Planning Commission for incorporation in the XI Plan.
(v) To develop a policy for public transport sensitive to climate change agenda.

(c) to (f) "Green India" programme envisages undertaking massive afforestation of degraded forests land in the country. Financial resources to be mobilized include funds available under "Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)", mobilising funds from the market, developing partner associations, and income from tree felling at ecologically appropriate intervals. The "Green India" programme will cover about six million hectares in the country in about 10 years. Initially three million hectares of degraded forest land will be taken up for afforestation in 2007 requiring about Rs. 10000/- crore.